tains of industry with a satisfying explanation of economic disorder, but scarcely impressed those who found difficulty in satisfying their simplest necessities, even in obtaining work—simplest necessity of all. Underconsumption was to them a more congenial and meaningful slogan than over-production.

Until concern for production and consumption became irrelevant in the light of a deeper concern—a concern for life itself rather than for the means of life, for the very continuance of any existence at all, whether over-producing or under-consuming, the machinery whereby commodities were produced and exchanged was subjected to a minute scrutiny and much criticism. A variety of suggestions, mild and drastic, were made for improving its working, or for replacing it altogether; many had their say on the subject, some at great length. There were advocates of currency reform, others who thought salvation lay in overhauling the banks; public works were not forgotten, and President Roosevelt's New Deal had its admirers. The International Labour Office contributed data, and sometimes actual proposals; and the Brazilian Government deserved gratitude from demagogues, if not from coffee-drinkers, by ostentatiously destroying large quantities of coffee,[19] thereby making available a ready and much used illustration of a favourite theme. These burnt bags of coffee were consumed again and again, the flames from them, indignation; the smoke, confusion, and the ashes which remained, despair.

The Greeks only became interested in their

administrative institutions when they threatened to break down, and the interest thus expended failed to prevent their decay. Utopias flourish in chaos, doctors in a pestilence, and economists and chartered accountants in a slump. As unemployment increased, so did the London School of Economics; a by-product of depressed industrial areas were University Extension Lecture courses in economics, conscientiously attended, with essays handed in and

[19] In December 1931 the destruction of one million bags a month was ordered.